

## ***Reimagine UV*** **Purpose, Vision and Values** **Frequently Asked Questions** **February 2021: Part 3**

(previous FAQs can be found on the website under *Our Latest News*)

### **1. How meaningful is the consultation process? Are people engaging with this during lockdown?**

A purpose statement is really only as good as the level of engagement the church community gives it, and that is especially challenging during lockdown.

However, there are some real encouragements about engagement levels so far in the process:

FAQs 1 – 280 views from 195 addresses

FAQs 2 – 219 views from 173 unique addresses

Video 1 *What is reimagine?* – 251 views from 176 addresses

Video 2 *What is the timeline?* – 335 views from 230 addresses

Video 3 *Our Proposed Purpose Statement* – 335 views from 230 addresses

Video 4 *Our Proposed Values Statement* – 300 views from 204 addresses

4 Zoom conversations with AH, total number of participants = 106

The thing to stress here is that the consultation process is ongoing. You can access all the above videos and documents on the website under *Our Latest News*. You can join in the Small Group discussions happening over the next couple of weeks and you can write to Andy directly.

### **2. What was the feedback from the recent group conversations?**

The four Zoom conversations proved to be really valuable. There was a lot of positivity, some insightful comments and a few really challenging questions!

We want to propose two immediate 'tweaks' in response to the feedback:

**To the values:** *'truthfully humble' rather than 'truthful humility'*

**To the purpose statement:** *'Learning to join the dots' rather than 'joining the dots'*

## **Have we thought of consulting people outside of the church about our proposed Purpose, Vision and Values?**

We hadn't but it's a great idea! After we get the feedback from our Small Groups, we will arrange this.

## **Why do we need a Purpose, Vision and Values statement anyway?**

At times during this process, I have been asking myself the same question ☺ but with the purposes of God extending across every aspect of human need, no local church can do everything reflected in God's Kingdom. Without focus churches tend to flounder. It's the responsibility of each congregation to ask God how we fit into His bigger plans. As many of those who have engaged with the conversation have already discovered, just talking about this together brings a greater sense of shared purpose and mission amongst us.

## **When will *Reimagining UV* end?**

*Reimagine* (previous videos and FAQs on the website under *Our Latest News*) is an umbrella term for a number of things we are doing during lockdown in order to prepare for going back to being gathered church again. Whilst elements of it will be ongoing, we hope that by June the three foundational pieces of work of the Team Review, the Purpose, Vision and Values and the Wardrobe will be completed. At that point the *Reimagine* project will end.

## **With the proposed Purpose Statement of '*Learning to join the dots between what we believe and how we live*', does it give the impression of having to try harder? Where is the idea of grace?**

It's a good point. When compared with every other religion, grace is the great distinctive of Christianity. Only by the grace of God, His undeserved favour, are we saved and able to follow Jesus. However, the scriptures themselves are full of statements where grace is assumed but not made explicit, and where our responsibility to behave and act in a certain way is emphasized without any clear reference to enabling grace. (Mark 1:15, Mark 6:7-13, Matthew 28:16-18 etc) I rather like the idea that grace is the secret to learning how we join the dots between what we believe and how we live.

## **How is the proposed Purpose Statement clearly Christian? Shouldn't it have the name of Jesus in it to identify us clearly?**

It is true that the purpose statement in itself is not enough to clearly identify us as followers of Jesus. This is the flip side of suggesting a statement that, whilst it gets to the heart of Christian discipleship, is written in a way to also engage with people outside of the church. The proposed Vision Statement with its clear reference to Jesus seeks to address this issue.

## **Aren't we confusing a strapline and a purpose?**

A strapline is a form of words used in marketing and advertising to grab people's attention. Our intention in drafting the purpose statement was very different. As one participant in recent conversations said: 'Speaking as an ex-missionary, this is a very necessary cross-cultural exercise.' What she meant is that we have to use language that is understandable outside the church as well as in it if we are to be true to our purpose as God's missionary people. For more background to our Purpose Statement see the presentation I made in the recent 'conversation' meetings (link on cover page).

## **If the emerging generation increasingly view Christian belief to have a negative impact on individuals and communities, why would us 'joining the dots' be understood as attractive?**

This is a very challenging point and I fear it may well be true. I will limit myself to three brief responses:

- The view that Christianity is negative and harmful is a minority view (at least for now) and we can and should seek to engage with the more open-minded majority.
- If people do hold this view, nothing we can say in a purpose statement will engage positively with them.
- The only thing likely to change their mind is a relationship with a Spirit-filled, sold out follower of Jesus, so let's focus a statement on growing those!

## **Why are we proposing a Vision Statement now?**

We always said we would. Purpose, Vision and Value Statements always go together, it was just that we hadn't drafted one yet, preferring to wait to see how the church responded to the purpose and values first. I am glad we did. No statement can say everything, and as we have listened to the feedback about the purpose statement it has made the drafting of the vision proposal much easier.

## **So, what is a Vision Statement?**

A Vision Statement answers the question: What would we see in a community that was living out its purpose with attitudes and behaviours consistent with its values?

In other words, what would we see if UV was a church where we were all learning to join the dots between what we believed and how we lived? What would we see as we all lived with faithful expectancy, bold creativity, truthful humility and sacrificial love?

## **What was the group's thought process in drafting a Vision Statement?**

When we asked ourselves what we want to see at UV, put simply, we wanted to see Jesus! We want our vision statement to clearly express our Christian identity as followers of Jesus Christ.

As we thought about how we would actually 'see' Jesus amongst us we landed on four things:

- We would see people discovering Jesus for themselves - *Conversion growth*
- We would see Him in a profoundly *loving and grace-filled church community*
- We would see Him at work changing us into His image - *becoming more like Christ*
- We would see *our lives being used by Jesus to serve His world*

### **So, what is our proposed Vision Statement?**

We would like to propose the following possible vision statements for us to consider:

1. *Our vision is people discovering Jesus, learning to follow Him, finding their home in church, and serving the world.*
2. *Our vision is growing numbers of people discovering Jesus, finding a place of belonging in his Church and serving the world as they learn to follow Him*
3. *Our vision is increasing numbers of people finding their home in Church, discovering Jesus, learning to follow him, and serving the world.*

### **So, what happens next? What are we going to be discussing in our Small Groups?**

There are two issues we would like our Small Groups to talk about: the proposed Values and the new Purpose Statement.

#### Questions about our proposed values

Most people involved in the conversations were positive about the proposed Values: *Faithfully expectant, Sacrificially loving, Boldly creative, Truthfully humble.*

However, questions were raised about how much these values would connect with people who do not share our faith and how memorable and accessible the words are generally. A few said they would prefer four words rather than eight. There was some discussion about the value of simple and short values verses the breadth and energy behind the proposed values.

#### Two questions for group discussion about the values:

- Does the group like the values suggested or would they prefer to see them reduced to four words?
- If so, which four words?

#### Questions for group discussion about the proposed vision statement:

- What is the general response of the group to the thinking behind the proposed vision statements?
- Does the group prefer vision statement 1, 2 or 3?
- Are there any suggested edits or alterations from your group to the vision statements we are suggesting?